



Southern Gulf
NRM

MEDIA RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

New Plan to Guide the Future of Southern Gulf Natural Resource Management

A new Regional Natural Resource Management Plan for the Southern Gulf region will be launched at the upcoming annual general meeting of Southern Gulf NRM.

“This Plan is a primary example of the leadership Southern Gulf NRM provides for natural resources management in the region”, said Andrew Maclean, CEO of the community-based Southern Gulf NRM group.

The plan draws upon new research and builds on the experience gained in implementing earlier plans.

One of the four main programs established in the plan is Building Strong NRM Communities.

“Strong and capable communities lie at the heart of NRM”, said Mr Maclean.

The Plan identifies a series of actions that will help build community knowledge, skills and capabilities.

“Our energetic Regional Landcare Facilitator is a good example of the contribution we already make towards building strong communities”, said Mr Maclean.

Mr Maclean says that he is also particularly pleased with the developing relationship between Southern Gulf NRM and regional Indigenous communities as a contribution to community development.

The second program of the Plan is Growing Regional Prosperity.

“Unless NRM based industries like rangelands grazing are economically viable, they are not in a position to improve the sustainability of their operations”, explained Mr Maclean.

The Plan identifies activities to support producers better manage and monitor rangelands pastures.

“The successful Savannah Plan project, delivered by the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries using NRM funds is a great example of the sort of work that must continue into the future”, said Mr Maclean.

Addressing risks to land condition is the focus of the Securing Landscape Resilience program of the Plan.

“Our region faces a dire threat from the spread of Prickly Acacia and a host of other weeds”, observed Mr Maclean.

Other resilience challenges addressed in the plan are fire management, water quality, pest animals, and soil erosion.

A background paper to the Plan, authored by Dr Gay Crowley, specifically addresses climate change issues for the region.

The fourth program of the Plan is Securing our Natural and Cultural Heritage.

“I think that the natural environment of the Southern Gulf region are sometimes overlooked”, said Mr Maclean.

“But the region supports the largest estuarine wetland system in Australia and is habitat to numerous threatened species”, he notes.

The plan identifies a range of actions targeting threatened species and communities, wetlands, monitoring and measures to secure protected habitat.

Southern Gulf NRM has a leadership role but makes clear that it cannot achieve Plan outcomes without the collaboration of others.

“I hope everyone in the Southern Gulf Region with NRM responsibilities takes the time to read the plan and consider how they can contribute to implementation”, Mr Maclean said.

The Plan is being published during a period of considerable funding uncertainty as Queensland and Australian Government programs come to a close.

“This Plan demonstrates to Governments that there is a strong need for increased NRM investment in the Southern Gulf region and that we have a clear program of activities ready for that investment,” Mr Maclean said.

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